Live-stock insurance scheme

3060. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of live stock insurance scheme and whether this scheme has been launched belatedly;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in its launching; and

(c) whether the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2007-08) in its 35th report has made recommendation/observations on the subject and if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Livestock Insurance Scheme has twin objectives of providing protection mechanism to the farmers and cattle rearers against any eventual loss of their animals due to death and to demonstrate the benefits of the insurance of livestock to the people and popularize it with the ultimate goal of attaining qualitative improvement in Livestock and their products. The scheme has been launched belatedly.

(b) The scheme was approved by Government only in February, 2006 for implementing it on pilot basis during 2005-06 and 2006-07 of the Tenth Plan. The funds were released in March, 2006 and the scheme could start only in 2006-07.

(c) The Standing Committee on Agriculture has dwelt on the subject 'Livestock Insurance' and initially made recommendation in their 29th Report. On the basis of an Action Taken Report submitted by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), the Committee made further comments in their 35th Report. Further reply on 35th Report by the DADF is given in the Statement.

Statement

Further reply of the Government

The Government has accorded approval on 13th September, 2007 for the continuation of the Livestock Insurance Scheme on pilot basis during 2007-08 in the same format and in the same districts as it was implemented during 2005-06 and 2006-07. The scheme is in full operation in the selected 100 districts across the country. To assess the impact of implementation of the pilot scheme during the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 in terms of achieving the objectives of the Scheme and to identify the weaknesses affecting it, an evaluation study has been given to Institute of Rural Management, Anand during the current year. Based on the findings and suggestions of the study, proposal for extending the scheme to the entire country and other species of livestock during 2008-09 and beyond will be taken up. While preparing the proposal afresh for its implementation in entire country during 2008-09 and beyond, various suggestions of the Parliamentary Standing Committee regarding subsidy will be considered.